

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/614,517

Examiner

Michael Le

Applicant(s)

MACHIDA ET AL.

Art Unit

2163

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the request for continued examination filed November 21, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |



DON WONG

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Allowance

1. Claims 1-12 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. The instant invention is directed towards service provisioning to a computer, personal digital assistant or mobile device. The computer system that provides the provisioning service utilizes a plurality of tickets, wherein each of the tickets includes, among other things, information about the service provider, how to access the service provider and the particular good/commodity that the service provider provides. Upon a user request, a ticket is searched and access information is retrieved from the ticket. The access information is then used to retrieve content information about the commodity requested by the user and it is then presented to the user.
4. The novelty of the instant invention is the ticket being utilized. The instant invention utilizes a ticket that is different from the plain meaning of the word. Here, a ticket is a record containing information about the service or commodity, the service provider and a method of accessing the service provider. A description of the structure of a ticket is found in the Disclosure at paragraphs 0094-0096 and in conjunction with figure 6. A set of example tickets is shown in figure 16. What distinguishes the ticket of the instant invention from the prior art is the fact that it also stores a storage location of a procedure file. A procedure file is a file that stores specific access method information for connecting to a service provider. The ticket stores information of where the particular procedure file corresponding to the service provider is stored (element (3) of the ticket in figure 6). Storing this information allows a service provider to

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utilize a publicly available connection protocol.¹ A discussion of the prior art in regards to the novel feature is set forth below.

5. The closest prior art are as follows:

6. **Ogawa (US Patent Pub 2002/0087706)** discloses an information providing method and system, which allows a user to request information about a particular provider by simply sending an email to a specified email address of the provider that has been registered by a service provider (Ogawa: abstract; para. 0071, lines 6-14; para. 0076, lines 1-9). Ogawa discloses storing in the service provider records pertaining to each of the information providers in a table (Ogawa: Fig. 2, element 317; fig. 5; para. 0125). Upon a request by a user through an email, the service provider extracts the relevant information from the table corresponding to the information requested by the user, and sends the extracted information to the user (Ogawa: para. 0143; para. 0144). Ogawa, however, does not expressly disclose a procedure file or information in a record of the table (interpreted as a ticket) that relates to storage of a access method file. Thus, although Ogawa provides similar service provisioning, the method of accessing the information provider is different from that of the instant invention in that Ogawa does not utilize a procedure file and does not store information regarding storage of an accessing method.

7. **Skillen et al. (US Patent 6,098,065) hereinafter "Skillen"**, was relied upon to cure some of the deficiencies of Ogawa. Skillen discloses an associative search engine that searches for products matching a search argument as well as other related products that may be relevant to the user requested product and then displays the information to the user (Skillen: col. 4, lines 29-

¹ See paragraph 0078 of the Disclosure for more information.

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45). Skillen, however, also does not expressly disclose the use of a procedure file or a ticket that stores information about the storage of the procedure file or access method.

8. **Suzuki et al. (US Patent 5,675,738) hereinafter "Suzuki"**, was relied upon to cure the deficiencies of both Ogawa and Skillen. Suzuki discloses a connection file for storing connection data for connection through a control mechanism to a server that stores the requested information (Suzuki: col. 5, lines 14-20). Much like the procedure file of the instant invention, the connection file of Suzuki is utilized to connect to a content provider. However, Suzuki does not expressly disclose records or tickets like that of the instant invention.

9. **The combination of Ogawa, Skillen and Suzuki** does not result in the instant invention because even if the connection file of Suzuki were to be combined with the "ticket" of Ogawa, the ticket of Ogawa would still not contain information about where the connection file of Suzuki is stored. Thus, the resulting "ticket" would still be distinguished from the instant invention. For the reasons above, claims 1-12 are allowed.

10. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

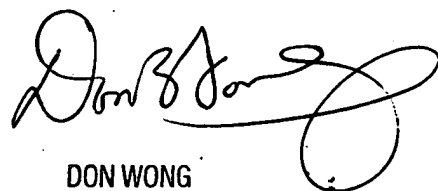
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Le whose telephone number is 571-272-7970. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs : 9:30am-6pm, Fri: 8am-4:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael Le
Art Unit 2163
February 20, 2007



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